Role of black money and criminals in the elections

464. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that black money and criminality play a major role in the elections of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to bring forward a new legislation on electoral reforms; if so, when it is likely to come up; and

(c) what are the immediate electoral reforms that Government propose to bring about?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It is, however, not possible, at this stage, to indicate the exact time-frame as to when a new legislation on Electoral Reforms would be brought forward. The important proposals under consideration of the Government are given in the Statement which is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

1. Measures for discouraging non-serious candidates by increasing the security deposits, and increase in the number of proposers for nomination.
2. Restriction on contesting elections from more than one constituency.
3. Reduction in the campaign period.
4. Empowering of the Election Commission to adjourn poll in emergencies.
5. Automatic disqualification in case of a person found guilty of corrupt practice by the court of law.
6. Automatic disqualification on conviction for any electoral offence.
7. Amplification of the scope of the offence of "booth-capturing".
8. Provision of more stringent punishment for illegal hiring of conveyance.
9. State funding of elections to candidates of recognised parties in the form of free supply of copies of electoral rolls, diesel/petrol, identity slip of voters etc.
10. Introduction of Photo-identity cards.
11. Clubbing expenditure incurred by a political party on the election of a candidate with the election expenditure of the candidate for enforcing the ceiling on such expenditure.
12. Making ceiling on election expenses realistic.
13. De-registration of political parties.
14. Marina breach of Model Code of conduct an illegal/corrupt practice;
15. Multi-Member Election Commission.
16. Statutory backing to observers nominated by the Election Commission.
17. Fixing a time of six months for holding bye-elections.
18. Ban on donations by companies to political parties.

Establishment of Windmills in Andhra Pradesh

465. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have submitted a scheme for the establishment of windmills to generate power with the participation of private sector;

(b) whether Government have approved the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?